(c) In order to bridge the gap between demand and supply the following measures have been taken:

— capacity addition

— Modernisation of generation in existing power plants by renovation and modernisation

— reduction in transmission & distribution losses

— coordinated operation of hydro, thermal, nuclear and gas turbine power stations

— promotion of inter-stateinter-regional power transfers

— demand side management

— conservation of energy.

(d) and (e) The assessment of future demand of electricity upto 2001-02 was made by 15th EPS Committee for the country including Andhra Pradesh. The 9th and 10th Plan have not yet been finalised.

Sale of Aircraft owned by NHPC

1813. SHRI KHAN GHUFRAN ZAHIDI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an aircraft owned National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) is lying without any potential use;

(b) if so, whether the company has called any bidders for buying the Air craft; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and name of the highest bidder?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The Aircraft available with NHPC had been used sporadically.

(b) Global bids were invited by NHPC in December, 1997.

(c) The following were the valid bidders in order of value of bid:

(i) MS Jetstream Aircraft Sales Inc.,- USA. (ii) MS Condor Avhrtion Partnership, UK.

(iii) M/s Lumbini Airways Pvt. Ltd., Nepal, (iv) *M/s* U.P. Airways Ltd., India.

The highest bidder withdrew his bid subsequently and the second highest bidder did not show interest and intimated his unwillingness to buy the aircraft. The third bidder *viz.* M/s Lumbini Airways Pvt. Ltd., Nepal increased his bid amount after negotiations. This bid has been accepted by NHPC and a Letter of Award was issued in November, 1998.

Restructuring of SEBs

1814. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any action plan to expedite restructuring of SEBs with II phase of reform package;

(b) if so, the details of the steps initiated in this regard during the current year and the Ninth Plan period;

(c) the details of present status of the implementation of reform package/struc-tural reforms SEB-wise; and

(d) the details of the schemes drawn up by PFC and other financial Institutions for structural reforms of SEB and upgradation of infrastructure network?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The Government had evolved a Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP) based on the consensus reached in the Chief Ministers conferences held in 1996. As mandated by the CMNPP, the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Act, 1998 was enacted on 2nd July, 1998 for rationalisation of tariff, transparent policies regarding subsidies and matters incidental thereto. In accordance with this Act, the Central Electricity Regulatory commission was established on 25th July, 1998. The Act also contains an enabling provision for the State Governments to set up regulatory commissions. To encourage the States to set up SERCs, it has been decided to give an

additional 1% rebate (over and above 4% subsidy announced) for PFC loans under Accelerated Generation Plan Scheme. The Government had set up a one member committee under Shri S.J. Coelho to study private sector participation in distribution. The various model of privatisation of distribution as recommended by the committee have been recommended to the State. The Government also enacted the Electricity Laws (Amendment) Act, 1998 on 10th August, 1998 for making transmission an independent activity and encouraging private investment in transmission sector. A conference of Chief Ministers is scheduled for 18124998 to discuss the status of reforms in various States.

(c) Details of present status of the implementation of reform package^truc-tural reforms SEB-wise are given in Annexure. *[See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 46]*

(d) Details of the schemes drawn up by PFC and other financial institutions for structural reforms of SEB and upgradation of infrastructure network are given in Annexure.

[See Appendix 185, Annexure No. 46]

Mega Hydro Projects

1815. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present installed capacity of the country's hydro sector;

(b) whether the Central Electricity Authority has identified some mega hydro projects for execution in the next 15 years by the National Hydro-electric Corporation;

(c) if so, the details thereof, state-wise; and

(d) the criteria adopted for the selection of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF POWE^ (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) The present installed capacity of the hydro sector in the country is 21,891.08 Mega Watts (MW). Hydro plants account for 24.80 per cent of the total installed capacity.

(b) and (c) In September, 1998, the Central Electricity Authority (CEA) identified hydro projects which could be considered for execution by National Hydro-electric Power Corporation (NHPC) after obtaining the necessary clearances in the next fifteen years. The State-wise details of the projects identified by CEA for execution by NHPC are given in the enclosed Statement. (See below)

(d) The broad criteria for identification of the projects are:

(i) The schemes should be of large capacity.

(ii) Projects located in the vicinity of projects being developed or already developed by NHPC were considered for execution so that infrastructure already established could be utilised.

Statement

State-wise details of projects identified by CEA for execution by NHPC

SI. No.	Name of the Scheme	State	Installed Capacity (MW)
i.	Sawalkot	J&K	OO
2.	Kol Dam	H.P.	800
3	Parbati St. II	H.P.	800
4	Kishau	U.P.	600
5.	Kadwan	Bihar	450
6	Teesta St. Ill	Sikkim	1200